

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

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R 021045Z JUN 75

FM AMCONSUL LAHORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 445

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL KARACHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJECT: KHAR-RAMAY RIVALRY IN PUNJAB

REF: LAHORE 0623

1. SINCE SQUABBLE BETWEEN GOVERNOR KHAR AND CHIEF MINISTER RAMAY HAS SHOWN NO SIGNS OF ABATING, PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO HAS APPARENTLY DECIDED UPON MORE FORCEFUL INTERVENTION. ACCORDING TO (OPPOSITION) DAILY NAWA-I-WAQT JUNE 2, BHUTTO WILL BEGIN "EXCHANGE OF VIEWS" WITH PPP MNA'S, MPA'S AND PARTY OFFICERS IN RAWALPINDI JUNE 2. AFTER SERIES OF MEETINGS IN CAPITAL WITH PPP LEADERS AND "ELITES" FROM DIFFERENT PARTS OF PUNJAB DURING REMAINDER OF WEEK, PAPER REPORTED "RELIABLE PPP SOURCES" AS SAYING PM WILL FLY TO LAHORE FOR MEETINGS WITH PARTY LEADERS HERE JUNE 9, 10 AND 11.

2. ALSO ACCORDING TO NAWA-I-WAQT (GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PRESS DID NOT RUN STORY), GOVERNOR KHAR ISSUED STATEMENT JUNE 1 SAYING THERE WOULD BE FULL DISCLOSURE OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CHIEF MINISTER RAMAY AND HIMSELF AFTER BHUTTO VISITS LAHORE JUNE 9-11 AND ASSESSES SITUATION. CLOSE FRIEND OF KHAR, WHO CLAIMED TO HAVE TALKED TO GOVERNOR

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OVER WEEKEND, TOLD US JUNE 2 NAWA-I-WAQT STORIES WERE

ACCURATE. HE ADDED THAT BHUTTO TOLD KHAR TO "GET OUT OF TOWN" UNTIL JUNE 8 TO AVOID BEING WHERE HE MIGHT MAKE MISSTEP.

3. NAWA-I-WAQT QUOTED PPP SOURCES AS SAYING BHUTTO'S CONSULTATIONS WOULD RESULT IN POLITICAL CHANGES (PLURAL) IN PUNJAB. OTHER PAPERS HAVE SPECULATED THAT RAMAY CABINET WOULD BE EXPANDED PRIOR TO PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY BUDGET SESSION (JUNE 10), BUT THIS WOULD APPEAR UNLIKELY PROSPECT IF PRIME MINISTER HAS NEAR-TERM PLANS TO REMOVE RAMAY. MEANWHILE, GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PRESS HAS REPORTED KHAR AS MAKING, UNCHARACTERISTICALLY, SOCIALISTIC STATEMENTS TO PPP WORKERS IN LAHORE AND MULTAN.

4. COMMENT: ONCE AGAIN, PRESENT SITUATION REMINDS US OF EVENTS OF 1974. ADDRESSEES MAY RECALL THAT BHUTTO VISITED LAHORE FOR SEVERAL DAYS IN APRIL LAST YEAR TO PATCH UP SIMILAR KHAR-RAMAY RIFT. AS HE WAS LEAVING CITY, HE BROUGHT TWO TOGETHER ON PUBLIC PLATFORM AND FORCED THEM TO SHAKE HANDS AFTER ANNOUNCING THEY HAD AGREED TO COOPERATE (LAHORE 0594 OF APRIL 19, 1974 -- UNCLASSIFIED). SINCE RAMAY MUST PUSH BUDGET THROUGH ASSEMBLY AND KHAR HAS BEGUN MAKING ATYPICAL SOCIALISTIC NOISES, SOUNDING VERY MUCH LIKE SOMEONE WHO WISHES TO REMAIN IN BHUTTO'S PPP, WE SUSPECT SOMETHING LIKE THE 1974 EVENTS WILL BE REPEATED IN NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS.
GRIFFIN

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